

September 28, 1998

As noted in previous updates, the Citizen Council and the Steering Committee will not meet again, but the newly appointed IOWAccess Council, charged to carry on the IOWAccess mission, has been meeting monthly to discuss sustainability and its role in building and promoting the network.

If you would like to receive the minutes and packets to the IOWAccess Council meetings, you may do so by calling Information Technology Services at 515/281-3462. This is one way to keep informed about the activities of the network - and the issues they will face - after the development phase has concluded.

IOWAccess Launch and Reception

The IOWAccess launch and reception has been scheduled for November 12, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, at the new Historical Building, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines. The reception will be held in the atrium, and the formal recognition ceremony will be held at 5:00 pm. Governor Terry Branstad will thank all participants for their volunteerism and formally launch these projects.

Invitations to the event were mailed Friday, so if you have not already RSVP'd, please do so soon by calling Brenda at 515/243-2000 or 800-765-3022. Please invite friends and members of your community! If possible, we'd like to know ahead of time who will be coming so we can get a good count and have nametags prepared. Regardless - the more the merrier!

Projects Update

Project 1: IOWAccess Network

Project Overview

Use the Internet to create the IOWAccess Network — a single electronic government gateway that would give customers the ability to access multiple levels of government seamlessly on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week basis.

Project Update

The Project 1 Team met last week for the final time to discuss changes to the final report, and finalize evaluation plans. All project leads will be sent a survey from Project 1 about the current web site development. This survey will be mailed in the coming weeks, so feedback may be appropriately addressed in the final report. Other plans to evaluate include the use of an online feedback survey, and interviews with targeted organizations and individuals. The feedback received to date informally has been exceptionally good, but the team wants to have some formal and ongoing feedback mechanisms implemented before the end of the year.

The team thanked everyone for their dedication and patience - realizing that many other teams were put on hold as the final decision of Project 1 was made. Project 1 plans to demonstrate its applications and capabilities online at the November 12 launch. Tamara Dukes, Linda Plazak, and Kay Arvidson will be present at the booth for individual demonstrations.

Project 2: Internet Training Materials with Arizona State University

Project cancelled.

Project 3: Internet Training Materials and Program

Project Overview

Implement an intergovernmental program to provide free training to government managers and decision makers; federal, state, and local government employees; and other stakeholders on uses of the Internet. Test and evaluate Internet training materials in a series of pilot projects, targeting the general public and government employees and decision makers from all levels of government.

Project Update

The Project 3 team met for the final time during the summer, and issued its final report several months ago. The report is being updated, as requested by the Steering Committee and Citizen Council, and will be completed next month for publication. The team plans to have Internet access to the online Internet training materials demonstrated at the ITS Launch on November 12, although the persons demonstrating this application have not been determined. The Internet training materials are currently available on-line through the IOWAccess Network (www.iowaccess.org) - they are free of charge and can be copied, used, and distributed as desired.

Project 4: Internet Pilot Project in Area XV

Project Overview

Implement a project to demonstrate various Internet services that provide training for government agencies, students, and citizens at Indian Hills Community College County Centers in Albia, Bloomfield, Corydon, and Oskaloosa.

Project Update

Project 4 has completed the draft report and is working to complete the evaluation component.

Project 5: Online Budget and Tax Information

Project Overview

Develop an online budget and tax information system for counties, cities, and school districts to submit reports and obtain finance information from the State of Iowa. All budget information from local jurisdictions will be made available to the public (via the Internet) by the year 2000. This project was expanded to include online submissions of property tax valuations.

Project Update

The valuation component of Project 5 is nearly complete. A group of county auditors and MIS staff reviewed the system to ensure county data can be transferred to the state system.

Project 6: Online Housing and Finance Services

Project Overview

Develop an easy-to-use, concise electronic information clearinghouse of housing and finance services available through national, state, and local governments and private entities.

Project Update

Iowa State University, the project vendor, has added information on homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and transitional housing across the state to the site. ISU has developed a marketing brochure that will be distributed statewide. The project team

also agreed to continue meeting after December as an oversight committee to provide guidance to the Iowa Finance Authority on upkeep and updating the site.

Project 7: First Stop Business License Center, Professional Licensing Center & Regulation Guide

Project Overview

Develop and implement an efficient and convenient electronic information system for citizens, businesses, and governments to apply for professional and business licenses and operating permits; obtain project specific regulatory guidelines and agency contacts; and identify and select appropriate business and community economic development project assistance. This project targets businesses, counties, cities, and businesses that start-up or expand each year, and individuals that apply for or renew their professional licenses each year.

Project Update

An additional evaluation component of the BLIC portion of the project will be conducted in November through one or two "focus group" type meetings involving users of the system.

Project 8: GIS

Project Overview

Construct the infrastructure needed for all levels of government, the educational sector, and the private sector to take full advantage of geographic information systems and related technologies. Formalize a coordinating body, hire staff, manage an enhanced data clearinghouse, and conduct a statewide GIS training and educational effort.

Project Update

The GIS Clearinghouse is now up and running and can be accessed through the Internet at www.iowaccess.org/projects/igisc/. The Local Decision Makers' GIS Workshop was held September 28.

Project 9: STAWRS

Project Overview

Develop and test a system that will allow employers to electronically submit employer/employee wage tax reports, including tax withholding, unemployment insurance tax, social security, and wage requirements. Businesses will be able to access and complete regulations and reporting forms electronically. The result will produce a single state report that an employer may obtain and submit electronically to a single state agency.

Project Update

The Project 9 Team has conducted a phone survey of all pilot employer participants. This will be included in the final report. The team continues to work on the final report. The team is working on scheduling a trip when the federal partners will come to Iowa to begin the second phase of the project.

Project 10: Electronic Commerce Business Plan

Project Overview

To support identification and prioritization of electronic commerce projects within Iowa. The final product, an Intergovernmental Electronic Commerce Business Plan, will contain an initial list of intergovernmental electronic commerce application recommendations for an ongoing process and a lead agency to sustain the business plan and its usefulness.

Project Update

The Project 10 Team is conducting a survey of government decision-makers and information technology specialists. This will be included in the final report. The team continues to work on the final report.

Project 11: Environmental Permitting

Project Overview

Over 2,100 of Iowa's largest businesses will be directly affected by this service, which will provide an electronic means of accepting air operating (Title V) permit applications and air construction permits. This service will provide the capability for applicants to use the Internet to track the status of operating and construction permit applications.

Project Update

The team plans to re-convene for what could be their final meeting on November 5 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm. The team will meet to discuss changes to the final report, and evaluate the most recent update of the permitting system. The team plans to demonstrate its application at the November 12 launch, but will not have the system online until the first of December. The system will be demonstrated from a laptop, and Project 11 team members will be on hand at the booth for individual demonstrations.

Project 12: Automated Booking Station Pilot

Project Overview

Provide a method of automating the booking process which includes electronic transfer of images and data for the largest counties in the state (based on population). The project will include the capability to electronically capture fingerprints and demographics -- so that criminal histories and other information can be transferred from a central database managed by the Iowa Department of Public Safety to the remote booking site in a county or city. Three pilot sites have been selected -- Polk County, Scott County, and Linn County.

Project Update

The final evaluation component will be completed by mid-November and the final report submitted shortly thereafter. Expansion of this project has been ensured through receipt of grant funds for three additional livescan units to be obtained in 1999.

Project 13: Community Resource Directory Pilot

Project Overview

Establish a pilot computerized, consumer-friendly information and referral and limited enrollment system that would provide all members of the pilot community with direct, private, and anonymous access to information about community resources, and the limited ability to enroll for services from an array of sites in the community. The result of this process will be an integrated, locally accessible system that communicates the availability of and, in some cases, the criteria for qualifying for, various community

services. The system will include the following types of information: child care, elderly services, financial assistance services, transportation, health and mental health care, housing, and other services offered by both public and private providers.

Project Update

The project team will meet this afternoon. Agenda items include a discussion of focus group findings and desired changes to Galileo, and the development of a plan for the funds (\$178,000) allocated to Iowa Workforce Development for sustaining and expanding Galileo. Evaluation at the public access sites in Cedar Rapids continues, and the vendor is working out final bugs in the system.

Project 14: Integrated Client Information for Mental Health Services

Project Overview

Develop a data information system that links individual county data systems to current state systems. Will provide common sharing of client information between state and local agencies and technical assistance for counties to develop uniform reporting for mental health services in Iowa.

Project Update

Evaluation continues at the county level and the Department of Human Services level. A need remains to identify an electronic means to provide the information release to the CPC needing to check information on a client.

Meetings Schedule

Project 11: Environmental Permitting

Thursday, November 5

2:30 - 4:30 pm

US Department of Veterans Affairs

ICN sites available in Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Kansas City, and Muscatine